

## Landscaping ordinance

It doesn't matter what the specifics – are the code is based on a false premise, that the city has the right to tell the citizens what they can do with their property. The city does not have the right to steal my time, energy and property to satisfy someone else's aesthetic value.

THEFT is the correct word.

It doesn't matter how many people show up to a public hearing or request a specific action or code, whether it be the type of trees in a yard or a reception center, we do not live in a democracy. Majority rule is mob rule. Claiming that we need to go by the will of the majority in what we do as a city is not an appropriate excuse to violate individual rights.

When the city imposes these invasive codes on its residents, it is not creating a more beautiful city. Instead it is sowing contention and disharmony among neighbors. Code compliance becomes a divisive issue and the theft becomes enforced by threats and fines. This is not peacemaking.

It is an unfunded mandate. If we think the state and federal government shouldn't create unfunded mandates, then why would you think it is okay to create them for the residents of Elk Ridge?

A few election cycles ago, I was expressing concerns to a candidate about some issues that would increase costs for the residents. His response was something like, "Well, if they can't afford to live here, then maybe they should go somewhere else!"

I would hope that no one on this current council would have such an arrogant, snobbish, prideful attitude. Do we as a city really want to be about a great and spacious building? Or do we want to have a free community that cares more about the hearts and welfare of its citizens than cosmetic appearance?

Everyone in Elk Ridge is not a Latter-day Saint, but Latter-day Saints have been counseled not to leave their religion at the door when

they enter the arena of politics. All of you on the city council are Latter-day Saints.

As Latter-day Saints we have been counseled to not go into debt for unnecessary reasons. Yet, you are discussing forcing residents into nonessential debt. Putting \$5000 more onto a 30 year mortgage @ 4.5% would add an additional \$4,100 in interest. Putting \$10,000 more onto a 30 year mortgage @ 4.5% would add an additional \$8,200 in interest. Perhaps some residents would like to put that money to use for something different: mission, education, medical bills, charitable works.

It is immoral to force a person to go into debt to meet someone else's aesthetic desires.

Do you as a city council want to add more flaxen threads to bind us by the traditions of men or do you want to promote principles of agency and *self* government? Which of these two directions is the way to build a Zion society?